

## BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension of	)	
	)	
the Educator Certificate of	)	CONSENT ORDER OF
	)	
Sharon L. Bennett	)	SUSPENSION
	)	
Certificate # 200595	)	

### SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on October 12, 2004. On October 27, 2003, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Ms. Sharon L. Bennett a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate (certificate) number 200595 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Ms. Bennett received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature. Ms. Bennett subsequently agreed through her attorney, Amy Gaffney, Esquire, to resolve the case without a hearing upon the following terms: (1) Ms. Bennett agreed to the voluntary suspension of her certificate on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. The suspension period would be for two years commencing retroactively on April 1, 2003, and ending April 1, 2005; (2) This suspension would be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the voluntary suspension of Ms. Bennett's certificate upon the terms set forth above.

Ms. Bennett holds a valid South Carolina certificate with over two years of teaching experience. On April 1, 2003, Ms. Bennett resigned from Newberry County School District pending an investigation of allegations she allowed Individual Education Program (IEP) documentation to expire, falsified IEP meeting minutes, did not follow protocol in letters of invitation and dismissed

Sharon L.  
Bennett  
No.#  
200595

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initial  
Here

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

services without dismissal meetings. In addition it is alleged, Ms. Bennett inaccurately recorded Medicaid records while employed as a Speech Therapist at Whitmire Elementary School.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1991). The State Board finds that there is substantial evidence to support its decision to accept the retroactive suspension of Ms. Bennett’s certificate #200595, from April 1, 2003 through April 1, 2005, upon the conditions set forth above. At the end of the suspension period, Ms. Bennett’s certificate will be reinstated.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones

Dr. Mary E. Jones

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

October 12, 2004

I, Sharon L. Bennett, SC Teaching Certificate 200595, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, October 12, 2004.

/S/ Sharon Bennett  
Sharon L. Bennett

9/20/04  
Date